

6 August 1954

The Honorable Fred E. Busbey  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Busbey:

I was talking with Charles Dewey the other evening. He told me he knew you very well and suggested that we might get together one of these days. Personally, I should welcome this opportunity as I should be glad to have a chance to talk over with you your comments on the Agency before the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 29, 1954, last. Frankly, I think there are some misapprehensions on your part which a conversation between us would help to clear up.

Most of the points raised in your testimony I should prefer to leave for such time as it is convenient for you to have a talk. There is one point, however, which I should like to clear up right away. That relates to the question of a civilian head for CIA.

I am a civilian. I have been with the Agency for over three and one-half years and its Director for a year and a half. I have never considered this job a temporary assignment and, not being a member of the Armed Services, there is no question of my "going to be back in the Services in a while." While I am a lawyer by profession, I have spent many years prior to my present assignment in intelligence work.

Faithfully yours,

SAC

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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Excerpt from hearings of the Task Force of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee studying the Strategy and Tactics of World Communism -- July 29, 1954.

Congressman Fred Busbey. . . . Where we have been so ineffective and why we have not been able to cope with this situation more intelligently and more specifically through our Central Intelligence Agency I would like to tell you because I think it has a very direct meaning on the study of strategy and tactics of world communism.

May I do that briefly?

Chairman Jenner. Please, sir.

Representative Busbey. I believe I know a little something of which I speak because I was a member of the subcommittee in the House that heard the testimony when the CIA was set up. What I am going to say is not top secret because I have said it from public platforms, and I propose to say it many more times.

I carried on three fights in the subcommittee when the CIA was constituted. One of them I was successful in, the other two I was not successful in. The one, and I thought it very important, that I was successful in was the fight I put up against trying to incorporate the FBI into the CIA. The two I was unsuccessful in were as follows: One, in trying to have it made into the law that the head of the CIA would be a civilian qualified to head up that agency through experience

like J. Edgar Hoover is the head of the FBI, a man who would be permanent and continue on year after year regardless of whether Democrats or Republicans were in the Administration, a man who would have the confidence of not only the Congress but the entire people of the United States as J. Edgar Hoover has. No; they wanted to set it up by bringing in men who were going to be on a temporary assignment, knowing they were going to be back in the services in a while. I think that was one of our main weaknesses in our whole intelligence situation and should be corrected at the very earliest date.

One of the other things that I thought was very important -- and if I may say so, I have personally worked in Intelligence for a considerable number of years -- the CIA is the first intelligence agency I ever knew of in my life that evaluated its own findings. Through my training in intelligence all through the years it has always been my understanding that a gathering agency should never evaluate their reports. I think that is very, very weak.

Another thing that has worked against us in this Communist conspiracy in trying to handle it is, very frankly, in my humble judgment and opinion the lack of training in Intelligence of the individuals

that were employed by the CIA. Unfortunately at the beginning -- and I think this should be on the record -- we had, before CIA was established, what was known as SI, Secret Intelligence.

I had as high an esteem and respect for that agency as I have for the FBI, and that is saying a lot. But instead of making use of these SI agents we had around the world, what did they do? They blanketed in some of these pro-Communists out of the OSS and other agencies who were not qualified in Intelligence at all. I dare say, and I am not going to mention any places or names, but I dare say if it were possible for a congressional committee to evaluate the qualifications of the men that we have in CIA in various posts of the world for the responsibilities they have, they would be lacking in many respects. Congress has been stopped because every time there is any question about CIA, it is the same old stuff. "Oh, we can't talk about that." You know, that hush-hush business.

Frankly, I think it is time that somebody looks into CIA and cleans up the mess down there in order to have an efficient, intelligent Intelligence staff around the world.

Until we do, I do not think your Intelligence that you are getting from our so-called listening posts all over the world through CIA is going to amount to a tinker's damn. The proof of that is this: Show

me one instance where the information has been of assistance or help or has done one thing to contain or stop this march of Marxist communism in their program for world revolution. That is the proof of the pudding.

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Representative Busbey. I think that is very important, and I think that is the first step. Some people will say to you, Well, we need these contacts for listening posts out in these satellite countries. Gentlemen, if they cannot listen any better in the future than they have / listened in the past, I humbly think we would be far better off without listening posts.

Senator Welker. In other words, you think they are pretty hard of hearing?

Representative Busbey. No; I do not think they are so hard of hearing, but they do not hear right.

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